

THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 4

MAY, 1952

JOSEPH KING CHAMBERLIN

Just as our last issue was going to press we were all saddened by the untimely death of Mr. Chamberlin, our Chief Pharmacist and Purchasing Agent. He was ill a comparatively short time and died of a malignant melanoma of the brain and chest.

Mr. Chamberlin had been with the hospital ten years, starting as Pharmacist-in-Chief. In 1946, he was made Purchasing Agent, as well as Pharmacist.

He received his early education in Winsted, Connecticut, and in 1931 was graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Mr. Chamberlin, who married Ruth Cooper, a graduate of the Deaconess School of Nursing, is survived by her, two daughters, 16 and 13, and a son of 7.

Mr. Chamberlin lived in Westwood and was unusually active in his local Church and Men's Club, as well as all civic organizations and professional societies. He was a fine man, especially liked and admired by the employees of the hospital. He was a fair man and had the knack of holding the employees in his department in close loyalty. He was highly respected by the staff and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for the way he handled our large pharmacy business here and by those who knew him best, he was loved for what he was himself.

The sincere sympathy and earnest prayers of all who knew him go to Mrs. Chamberlin and her children.

WARREN F. COOK,
Executive Director

RED CROSS

Mrs. Jameson reports that \$517.01 was collected for the Red Cross.

1952 COMMUNITY FUND

As of the close of the 1952 Community Fund drive, we promised to collect the unpaid pledges totaling \$1,057.50 in three equal payments during March, April, and May. Up to now with two-thirds of the time gone, we have only collected \$291.50 — leaving a balance of \$766.00. Will you please try to pay up your pledge *today* — Monday, May 5. Thank you.

MILTON B. NELSON,
Hospital Chairman



ADMITTING OFFICE

Photo by J. Coyne

Left to right: Miss Lillian Mahoney, Assistant Admitting Officer; Mrs. Mary Forde, Insurance Clerk-Typist; Mrs. Florence May, Assistant Admitting Officer; Miss Sigrid Hellmer, Associate Admitting Officer and Miss Marion Haskell, Admitting Officer.

8499 PATIENTS IN 1951

One of the busiest spots in the hospital is the Admitting Office. Phones ring constantly with inquiries from doctors' offices arranging for the entrance of patients. Transfers of patients to and from various types of rooms are recorded here as are the advanced bookings. The daily census for the whole hospital and numerous statistical reports originate here. But all the members of the Admitting Office agree that the most interesting and varied part of their job is the personal contact with the new patient and his family at admitting time, when forms containing personal background information are filled in for the hospital records. Each afternoon the Deaconess Lobby is filled with patients, their families and friends. A receptionist keeps the traffic from the lobby to the Admitting Offices running smoothly and messengers and volunteer workers are on hand to take the new patient and his luggage to the assigned building and floor. Each admission takes from fifteen minutes to half an hour.

Most patients come with a relative or friend and not a few bring their entire family — grandparents, children, brothers and sisters. Sometimes when this happens, each member of the family wants to supply, at the same moment, additional bits of information to help with the procedure.

Last year, 8499 people were admitted to the hospital. They came from 44 of the 48 United States and 28 foreign countries. Foreign patients who know no English present some problems, but their passports come to the rescue of the Admitting Officer. When a patient must be put to bed at once an Admitting Officer will go directly to his room for the necessary information or a member of his family will supply it.

Miss Gladys Stockwell completes the Admitting Staff of six members. Mrs. Frances Benjamin does the admissions for the Baker Building and in rush periods Miss Kay Waters, Mrs. Esther Prince and Mrs. Jane Boyce help this department.

THE PULSE

MAY, 1952

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Supervised by the Personnel and
Public Relations Departments

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CAMPAIGN

Every year the American Cancer Society, through its Massachusetts Division, conducts a fund-raising campaign. The money used is raised for educational programs, research grants and various types of service for cancer patients. I know that you are acquainted with the interest of the Deaconess Hospital in the cancer problem. Many employees have expressed the feeling that this is one campaign to which they would particularly like to contribute.

It does not seem desirable to do extensive canvassing such as is done in the Red Feather campaign. You may obtain pledge cards from your department head if you wish to contribute.

WILLIAM A. MEISSNER, M.D.,
Pathologist

APPOINTMENT

Russell F. Cowing, nuclear physicist at the Deaconess Cancer Research Institute, had his many duties increased this month when he started supervision of the use of radio-active Cobalt, in accordance with regulations of the Atomic Energy Commission, at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Progress is being maintained consistent with the fair weather now prevailing. The current situation of progress is as follows:

All concrete floor systems including the main roof are in place.

Exterior masonry walls including limestone facings are well under way and interior partitions have been started.

Conduit, piping and metal ducts for the electrical, plumbing, heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning systems are being installed at a rapid rate. In this connection it is gratifying to realize that in spite of shortages and restrictions, all of the mechanical equipment and fixtures are either at the job or available from storage on short notice.

To those who attended the lecture and demonstrations regarding operating room hazards at Joslin Auditorium recently, it may prove of interest to know that our operating floors will be equipped with conductive terrazzo or rubber tile floors and all other fixtures to insure a maximum of safety.

L. PHILLIPS,
Clerk of the Works



Sigrid Hellmer, Assistant Admitting Officer,
asking information from a new patient.

Photo by J. Coyne

EYEGASSES TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Last November Sigrid Hellmer asked through THE PULSE for discarded eyeglasses and eyeglass frames for the natives in the Micronesian Islands. She was delighted with the response — over 100 pair came in from doctors, patients, employees, and volunteer workers. The following is a thank you note from the islands:

Koror, Western Carolines

"I want you to know what a treasure we received in all those eyeglasses. Please thank the kind people who gave them. Our own folk have been overjoyed and many people who do not usually visit our mission station have come too, and we are grateful. Most of these Palauan people are farsighted and need reading glasses. Thank you for your kindness."

Wilhelm Fey

* * *

Mr. Fey has been in the Western Carolines for 20 years with the exception of one short stay in Japan. He knows the islands, the people and their needs well. To his brief note of thanks I want to add mine. The response was wonderful; doctors, nurses, orderlies, and almost every department in the hospital responded — and particular thanks for the number brought in by Mrs. Phelps in the Cashier's Office. Thank you all for your cooperation and any more you might have would be gratefully received.

SIGRID HELLMER,
Admitting Office

CARE CAN HALT DIABETIC EYE INJURIES

Dr. Howard F. Root spoke recently in Pittsburgh's Mellon Institute to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. His remarks were covered by the Pittsburgh Press which reported that the "Blinding Diabetes" can be prevented if the patient takes care of himself and careful control of Diabetes will postpone or prevent the impairment of vision due to Diabetic Retinitis.

This is an inflammation of the retina, the eye picture transmitter, which follows long standing Diabetes. The disease blurs the sight and sometimes produces hemorrhages in the eye. Dr. Root said the latest results from the survey done at the New England Deaconess Hospital and Joslin Clinic indicated that the standard treatment for Diabetes, if adhered to by the patient, can prevent the eye injuring "side effects" of this ailment. Four hundred fifty Diabetics were divided into "good patients" and "poor patients" according to how well they followed medical instructions. Among the patients with good control of the disease, no one developed Advanced Retinitis. Among the group as a whole, one-quarter had no retinal hemorrhages whatever at the end of periods ranging from 10 to 20 years in duration. However, among more than two-thirds of the total group who had neglected the doctor's care and were under poor control, Advanced Retinitis was present in many and moderately advanced Retinitis in one-half.

NURSING SHORTAGE OR UTILIZATION?

Several weeks ago *The New York Times* ran an informative series of articles on the nursing shortage, which is country-wide. Although *The New York Times* did a great service to the country in general in pointing out this situation, we thought someone in Boston should start taking a constructive stand even though the solution to this problem may take some time.

The people of the press, the general public, even those interested in and working in hospitals must be informed. It is necessary to sit down with these people and try to find out the answers to some of these problems.

As the first step, Dr. Cook, Mr. Lowry, Miss Nelson, Mrs. Bradford, and Miss Adams sat down with Frances Burns of *The Boston Daily Globe*, one of the foremost medical writers in this area. Mrs. Burns also feels that Boston as a medical center should start a program of constructive thinking. Although the answers may not be found immediately, the thinking process must begin.

In conference with Mrs. Burns, ideas were thrown out for discussion about what hospitals in the country can do, what can be done in this area, and what in particular can be done at the New England Deaconess Hospital.

We do not have the answers yet — but here are some of the things discussed and recorded in the *Globe* by Frances Burns.

"Since the nursing shortage appears to be here to stay, one Boston hospital is getting ready to offset it by using lay personnel for many duties now performed by trained nurses.

The New England Deaconess Hospital is planning (1) a central messenger pool

to keep from calling nurses off the floor; (2) a floor manager who is a lay person; (3) to remove all 'housekeeping' duties from nurses; and (4) team organization of nursing service.

'If we can't get the nurses we need to operate our hospital at full capacity under the present system,' observed Dr. Warren F. Cook, administrator of the hospital, 'we'll simply have to change the system.'

Dr. Cook, Robert D. Lowry, assistant administrator; Olive Nelson, director of nursing, and Ellen Adams, personnel director, have been working on the problem for many months.

'The difficulty here does not lie in our nursing school,' Miss Nelson explained. 'We have no trouble about getting students. The school always is filled to its capacity of 210 students. At the moment we have 179 applicants for 40 places in the incoming class.'

But only some 10 nurses from each class come back to work in the hospital after they graduate. The others marry early, go into the armed services or veterans' hospitals, into industrial nursing, or, since this hospital draws students from a distance, back into the home town hospital.

'We realize that we are serving the greater community when our nurses go elsewhere' Dr. Cook said, and added ruefully, 'but we need them badly and we have educated them at considerable expense to ourselves.'

He thinks that Boston hospitals with schools of nursing might get together and agree to require a girl to remain for at least a year after graduation in her own hospital. Nurses educated by the armed services during the war had to serve a definite period.

'But we have to meet the competition of industry which now wants an increas-

ing number of nurses,' Dr. Cook explained. 'The hours are 9 to 5, while we have to operate on a 24-hour day in the hospital. The pay is usually a little higher.'

The Deaconess has been investigating the messenger pool system of Harper Hospital in Detroit and expects to have it working here shortly. Under it the nurse never leaves the floor, but calls the pool for help when she needs it.

A lay floor manager could relieve the head nurse of many of her present administrative duties and leave her free for the work for which she is educated, care of the sick and supervision of those who care for the sick. The lay administrator, it was explained, would be trained to take over the ordering of supplies, seeing that special requisitions for special diets, special drugs and special X-rays were filled.

'Of course,' says Dr. Cook, 'we shall have to find the lay personnel to do this kind of thing — women who can be trained to do many things that a nurse now does.'

Under the team plan, a graduate nurse has under her a student nurse, attendant or practical nurse and orderly, perhaps, a nurse's aide. The team has the entire care of a certain number of patients, under the responsibility of the graduate nurse.

The Deaconess is now conducting a survey to find out what the head nurse is doing each day.

'One of our most difficult problems is whether we can delegate the writing of orders to a lay person,' Miss Nelson said. 'Is that something the nurse would have to continue? Yet tens of thousands of corpsmen in the Navy have carried out such duties successfully, without graduate nurses' training.'

DO YOU KNOW THAT:

Walking $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles will walk off that 1 piece of apple pie.

Active exercise for one hour will burn off one ten cent chocolate bar.

Walking downstairs one hour continuously will burn off one piece of chocolate cake.

Furthermore: DO YOU KNOW THAT:

1 large doughnut and 1 cup regular coffee	is = to	1 poached egg 1 sliced buttered toast 1 small glass of milk 1 small glass grapefruit juice
1 piece of fudge	is = to	24 large strawberries
1 ten cent chocolate covered nut bar	is = to	3 crackers 1 cup clam chowder Lettuce and tomato salad with one tablespoon of salad dressing
1 piece cherry pie	is = to	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup chicken salad on lettuce $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of milk 1 pear
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ chocolate mints	is = to	1 4-oz. piece of steak with gravy



SECRET OF LIVING CELL STEP NEARER SOLUTION

By FRANCES BURNS
The Boston Daily Globe

The secret of the living cell was brought nearer a solution by a team of Boston medical scientists recently.

"Bubbles" were seen in the nucleus of a cell five minutes after atomic radiation of a living body by a Harvard team from the Cancer Research Institute of the New England Deaconess Hospital — Dr. Sheldon Sommers, Dr. Margaret Holt, and Dr. Shields Warren.

The changes are the most minute anyone ever has seen in a living cell. They show why radiation from the atom bomb or other sources puts the body machinery out of order and destroys the cell's nucleus beyond regeneration.

The discovery was described at an all-day symposium on the effects of radiation on the human body at the 49th annual meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists. Conducting the symposium was Dr. Warren, who is chairman of the Medical and Biological Division of the Atomic Energy Commission and chief of the Institute.

At the same session the injury to the unborn animal which may take place as a result of overstimulation of the adrenal glands and result in permanent brain damage was described by Dr. Samuel P. Hicks. Interruption of essential supplies to the fetal brain may be the cause of such congenital conditions as cerebral palsy.

The damaged nucleus after radiation was seen by the new Polaroid ultra-violet microscope which translates changes into different colors without the use of tissue-killing dyes. It was obtained by a method developed in the Institute by Dr. Holt of taking tissues and exposing them to a photographic plate. It is the first report on the use of the color translation camera in basic research. The camera was first described a year ago by the Polaroid Company in Cambridge.

"The change in the nucleus looks like a bomb crater thrown up by the radiation," Dr. Sommers said. "Radiation hits the nucleus of the cell hardest, we know. No one ever has been able to see the change so soon after radiation."

The change was seen after 75 roentgens of radiation had been given the animal. Several hundred roentgens is considered a lethal dose for humans.

The work is being supported by the Atomic Energy Commission. Used were radio-active phosphorus, sulphur and iron. The scientists are trying to find which substance is most likely to accumulate in cancer cells and destroy them without destroying good cells. The radioactive substance which kills the individual also

may save him when given in cancer-destroying doses, it is pointed out. Measurement of the chemicals thus far shows that phosphorus tends to lodge in the intestines and concentrate in the bone marrow where the protective white cells of the blood are manufactured. Sulphur goes to the liver and kidney and also has been found in the embryo and in the placenta.

Dr. Hicks gave massive doses of cortisone and ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone), the adrenal hormones, to pregnant animals. The doses, he explained, were much larger than those which would be given in treatment for human disease conditions.

After a single massive dose of the adrenal substance to the mother, the newborn animal was found to have a small head and other evidences of brain and body damage.

"Radiation tends to affect growing tissues most strongly. Cerebral palsy is the result of many disturbances of growth during development of the brain. Cancer is basically another problem of disturbed growth."

Dr. Hicks pointed out that the body's living cells or tissues live and grow by means of chemical processes, each type of tissue using a different chemical factory. Thus the adult brain which has stopped growing runs on oxygen and glucose. The new-born uses glucose as fuel to run the chemical factories in the brain cells, but can go without oxygen longer than adults.

The embryo or unborn creature appears, Dr. Hicks has discovered, to depend on a "chemical assembly line, or enzyme system" containing sulphur atoms, for its growing nerve cells.

The sulphur groups are "very easily" damaged by radiation from x-rays, cyclotron or radioactive chemicals. They also are damaged by certain chemicals which combine with them and throw the assembly line out of kilter.

"Most interesting of all," said Dr. Hicks, "is that ACTH and cortisone, the wonder drugs, seem to regulate growth by means of these sulphur atoms. When given to pregnant animals or new-born animals in large doses these drugs produce severe damage to the growing brain and to some other tissues. Like radiation and certain chemicals they can be used to produce malformations. Animals given large doses of cortisone at birth grow up to have distorted brains and abnormal body structure.

The scientists expect to explore the possibility that the body's own large production of adrenal hormones in times of great stress may interrupt this sulphur atom assembly line in the unborn child.

STYLE SHOW

Members of the Friends of the Deaconess Hospital put on a unique type of fashion show last month in Harris Hall for the employees and nurses. Each model wore an attractive spring outfit from her own wardrobe which was donated for sale, the proceeds going to the Catherine Delano Grant Scholarship Fund. A bake goods sale was held simultaneously and over \$150.00 was raised during the afternoon. Among the models were Mrs. Sheldon Sommers, Mrs. Warren F. Cook, Miss Dorothy Beckwith, Mrs. Elmer E. Hinton, Miss Ann Wardwell, Mrs. Richard Overholt, and Miss Dorothy Jones.

ENGAGEMENTS

Ethel A. Rogers, Class of 1935, to John A. Turner. Mr. Turner, who is Assistant Treasurer of the Continental Screw Company of New Bedford, was graduated from Northeastern University.

WEDDINGS

Jane Gordon, 1952 Senior, to Marvin Shaw at Durham, New Hampshire. Mr. Shaw is a graduate of Boston University and is taking graduate work at the University of Denver.

Kathryn Louise Morris, 1949 Junior to Ralph H. Lincoln on March 29th at the Little Church of the First Parish in Milton.

Elizabeth Sunm, ex-1951 Junior, to Anthony Peter Abrew of Gardner, Massachusetts.

BIRTHS

A daughter, Elizabeth, to Mr. and Mrs. Laurence A. Blood on February 28, 1952. Mrs. Blood is the former Patricia Worcester, 1947 Junior.

A daughter, Martha Ellen, to Mr. and Mrs. George Greer on February 5, 1952. Mrs. Greer was a former Dietitian.

A daughter, Paula Helen, to Mr. and Mrs. Paul P. Powers on March 16, 1952. Mrs. Powers was Helen Abrams, a former Dietitian.

A daughter, Sandra Jean, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Stone on March 1, 1952. Mrs. Stone is the former Patricia McGrady, 1952 Senior.

DEATHS

Mr. Stewart Lee on April 4, 1952, former Deaconess elevator operator and father of Mrs. Dorothy L. Palmer, Surgery.

The second Tetanus inoculation will be given in the Health Center at 9 A. M. on Wednesday, May 7, 1952.